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Notice of Proposed Rulemaking 05-311

To: Federal Communications Commission

I would like to submit comments regarding the FCC's "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" 05-311 on "video franchising". Local franchising is extremely valuable to our local towns and cities. Telecommunications companies have a responsibility to provide for this need as way to give back to the communities where they make so much of their money. Without local franchises, communities will have no way of ensuring they get reasonable rates, response to customer complaints or receive other services.

These local franchises provide the majority of funding for community access television (Public, Educational and Government) TV. PEG Television insures that local citizens have a voice in a world where it is virtually impossible anywhere else to have such a voice. Citizens in each city and town that has community television have access to equipment and training plus channel time that allows them to express their opinions and show the character of their community. The result is a diversity of programming that is unmatched on any network channels.

Community members receive much of their information from these channels. There is no other place where citizens can see gavel-to-gavel coverage of their own town selectmen meetings, school committee meetings, planning board meetings or town meetings. The decisions made here, at the local level, will affect the community the most and PEG access provides this coverage that cannot be seen anywhere else.

Local organizations make their voices heard on PEG access. These organizations have the chance to bring up issues, talk about local events that their organizations sponsor and talk about their mission to the rest of the community. The organization can join an access center and produce how and when they wish to without.

As a staff member of Carver Community Access Television, I strongly urge the FCC to rule for the maintenance of local franchises.

Regards

Daniel Miot
Executive Director
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